Searching after God

Job11:7 Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?
Zophar to Job.

Jn.1:18 No man hath seen God at any time.
Heb.13:8 Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever.

Story of little girl drawing picture of God.
Shocked mother-But nobody knows how God looks."
"They will when I get thru!".

Ever since man's first yearning after God he has been trying to picture him, giving his conception of what God must be like.

From the earliest conceptions of Deity down to the modern representations of God in art we have the most grotesque panarama of pictures imaginable.

Ancient Greek and Roman mythology- such figures!
Sacred Art of Renaissance- oftentimes the models of the Madonnas were but the paramours of the artists!
Modern sacred art just as grotesque as any. Sargent's Trinity in the Boston Library. It has been described as a picture of three ugly men dressed in a single suit of clothes.

I attended the preview of "After Six Days" a biblical picture from Creation to Solomon. A failure!
All art fails utterly in any attempt to portray God in a soul-satisfying way.

All thru the ages men have tried to adequately describe the infinite in definite terms, cramming the infinite into finite forms. And today we see in a glass just as darkly, so far as a complete picture goes, as they did in thedim past.

But the process of describing God is an interest one It is told to us briefly in the story of Moses.
Moses goes up Sinai to meet with God. While up there the people clamor for something to worship. Aaron make them a golden calf out of the jewelry and trinkets and baubles. Thus they revert to their old heathenish worship of idols. Then Moses comes down from the mount carrying the Law of God writtin on tablets of stone. When he sees what his people are doing he become wangry and throws the tablets of ston down

breaking them. After destroying the golden calf Moses again goes up the mountain and again God gives him the Law on some new tablets of stone.

How patiently God deals with us. However often we break his commandments, he writes them over for us. However we may caricature him in all our representations, he ever keeps before us the perfect model for our imitation.

And so it is that we keep making our descriptions of God and keep breaking them.

The Bible is full of various pictures of God that often stand in marked contrast to each other.

Nu. 15:32-36 Mk 2:23-24,28-28

The priestly picture of God in the first books of Moses largely taken up with an elaborate system of requirements and laws and taboos, of sacrifices and sabbaths, etc.

Listen tothis picture of God which Isaiah gives to us

Isaiah 1:11-14, Amos 5:21-24,12

Contrast 2 Kinds 2:23-24 with "But I say unto you, love your enemies and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you."

Take the passages of the O.T. of Jehovah's ordering the Israelites to utterly slay their enemies. The Jehovah of the early Israelites was a righteous God but a bloody cruel one. Now see the picture of God on Calvary- Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!

Each paints its own picture of God. The deities of one generation become the demons of the next.

Then why, do you ask, should we try to describe God at all, if all our attempts are but failures!

The answer is that we just cant help it. Just as all nature, called the creation of God the heavens and the earth, is a revelation of God, so each human is a picture of God, and the human mind cannot but try to describe God as best he knows how.

Nor can we conceive of God in any other terms than human experiences and condeptions. We give to our gods our human attributes. And our highest conception of God today is that of the Man, Christ Jesus, the world's only perfect man.

And God is thus lifting us up thru our man-like conceptions of Him into his godlikeness.

3. Is God the same, yesterday, today and forever? If noone has seen God at any time and if all our pictures of God are as looking in a glass darkly, how does anybody know whether God is really the same yesterday, today and forever? And what difference does it make? The big think for us to grasp is that so far as we are concerned, God is changing from age to age- because we are ahanging, we are learning by experience to know God in better ways than we once did. Our attempts to know God may be failures so far as any adequate representation of the real true God is concerned, but our becoming more Godlike is a reality.

Would you see God? Jesus said,"He that hath seem me hath seen the Father."
Clement of Alexandria quotes this saying of Jesus," If thou hast seen thy brother, thou hast seen God."

How are you describing God to the world?